

PRESS RELEASE: Solicitor General announces Pro Bono Week 2019



9th April 2019

During a speech at the National Pro Bono Centre today, the Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC MP announced [Pro Bono Week 2019](#) will take place this year from 4th to 8th November. Pro Bono Week, now in its 18th year, encourages and supports lawyers and law students to volunteer to give legal help to those in need.

The Solicitor General was visiting the Centre to meet pro bono charities based at the nationwide hub on Chancery Lane. Announcing the dates for this year's Pro Bono Week, the Solicitor General said:

"Pro Bono Week offers us a chance to celebrate and recognise some of the extraordinary contributions lawyers make in giving free legal help to those in need."

"In November, Pro Bono Week returns for its 18th year, and will continue to highlight the many ways members of the legal community can volunteer their time and expertise to help individuals, charities and community groups."

Activities hosted across the country by law firms, chambers, legal societies, charities, universities and law schools this year will focus on four themes:

- Highlighting how legal volunteering makes a difference to the public and even leads to changes in the law affecting thousands of people.
- Specific areas of development and best practice in pro bono schemes, such as cross-sector collaboration, integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into pro bono practice, improving pro bono technical assistance and use of new legal technology.
- Showcasing pro bono work and achievements of volunteer lawyers; for example the Advocate Bar Pro Bono Awards will take place on 6th November 2019.
- Demonstrating the career value of pro bono through events which explore the benefits of pro bono in terms of collaboration and impact on practice development.

Newly refreshed this year, the Pro Bono Week organising committee comprises representatives from pro bono charities, law firms and law schools, with contributions from across the sector including Bar Council, CILEx and the Law Society.

Resources and updates are at www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/national-pro-bono-week/. Organisers of events should email probonoweek@atif.org.uk to add their events to the online calendar or for advice on events to hold.

www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/national-pro-bono-week/

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*****ENDS*****

Further Information

Toby Brown
Chairman of the Pro Bono Week 2019 organising committee
Tel: 020 7696 9900
Email: tobybrown@atif.org.uk

Notes to Editors

1. Pro bono is where lawyers volunteer to provide free legal help to those in need. It is not intended to and cannot replace a properly funded legal aid system.
2. The Attorney General and Solicitor General are “pro bono champions” in Government, and chair a panel and committee to help steer and co-ordinate pro bono across England and Wales. The Law Officers also support fundraising efforts such as the London Legal Walk on 17 June 2019.
3. The Pro Bono Week organising committee includes representatives from pro bono charities, law schools and law firms, with contributions from across the sector including Bar Council, CILEx and the Law Society. <http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/national-pro-bono-week/>
4. The National Pro Bono Centre is a “hub” for pro bono charities across the legal sector. The charities support a wide range of pro bono projects and brokerage, helping individuals and community groups all over England and Wales. Those based at the Centre include Advocate (the new name for the Bar Pro Bono Unit), LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group), the London Legal Support Trust, the Access to Justice Foundation, the Legal Action Group, Pro Bono Community, and the Litigant in Person Support Strategy. <http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/about-us/>

Additional Images



Solicitor General Robert Buckland MP talks to members of staff at the National Pro Bono Centre, 9th April 2019



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